

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2719

INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

1. SEYDOU DIALLO, SECGEN OF GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MALIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR NOV. 18 TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN OVER LETTER ANNOUNCING U.S. INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO. DIALLO SAID U.S. WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE A TRAGIC BLOW TO ILO SINCE ORGANIZATION SIMPLY COULD NOT CONTINUE TO FUNCTION WITHOUT U.S. PARTICIPATION. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT LETTER OF INTENT MADE IT CLEAR THAT U.S. SINCERELY HOPED IT WOULD NOT HAVE TO WITHDRAW AND FULLY EXPECTED THAT THE ORGANIZATION WOULD EVOLVE IN SUCH A MANNER THAT WITHDRAWAL WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

2. DIALLO SAID THAT HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SUCH AN EVOLUTION. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR THE U.S. ACTION BUT HE HOPED THAT THE U.S., IN TURN, UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRINCIPLE VICTIMS OF THE U.S. ACTION WOULD NOT BE THE SOVIETS OR THE OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUT RATHER THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF AFRICA, SINCE U.S. CONTRIBUTED THE MAJOR PART OF THE FUNDING FOR ILO PROJECTS IN AFRICA. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT AGAIN WE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL

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APPROVAL, WE INTENDED TO PAY OUR ILO ASSESSMENTS DURING

THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

3. DIALLO THEN REFERRED TO THE GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO THE PLO IN THE ILO. HE SAID THE U.S. SHOULD LOOK TO THE AFRICAN VOTES ON THIS QUESTION, THAT ALMOST ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES VOTED IN FAVOR OF OBSERVER STATUS AS OPPOSED TO MEMBERSHIP. HE SAID THE REASON FOR THE AFRICAN VOTE WAS TO PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL FORUM IN WHICH TO CONVINCE THE PLO THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND CONSULTATION RATHER THAN THROUGH TERRORISM AND WITH MACHINE GUNS. IT WAS THE AFRICAN VIEW, HE SAID, THAT BRINGING THE PLO INTO CONTACT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WOULD EXERCISE A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THAT ORGANIZATION.
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